1-26-07

<u>38-173</u>

Business Education Courses: \$3,000 per Reservation

Funding through the Department of Commerce Entrepreneur Development Program provides funds for Indian business development organizations to deliver business education on each of the Reservations and for the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa. The Department has certified all of the organizations providing instruction. The classes use a curriculum especially designed for Native Americans, *Indian preneurship*, A Native American Journey Into Business.

TRIBE	COURSE INFORMATION
Blackfeet	Browning Community Development Corporation
	Course is currently in process
	11 participants in attendance
Apsaalooke	Little Big Horn Extension
	Course was completed
	20 participants graduated
Salish Kootenai	S&K Holding Company, Inc.
	Course was completed
	12 participants graduated
Assiniboine Gros Ventre	Tribal Business Information Center/Fort Belknap Community College
	The course will be starting Winter Semester (January 22)
Assiniboine Sioux	Fort Peck Community College
	Course was completed
	15 participants graduated
Little Shell Tribe of the	A course has not been scheduled at this time
Chippewa Indians	
Northern Cheyenne	Chief Dull Knife College/Extension Program
	Course is currently in process
	10 participants in attendance
Chippewa Cree	Stone Child College Extension Program
	A course has not been scheduled at this time
EDUCATIONAL	BENEFIT: 68 participants have or are expected to graduated.

Indianpreneur Equity Fund: \$7,875 per Reservation

The Indianpreneur Equity Fund will be managed by the Entrepreneur Development Program at the Department of Commerce. Policies and procedures have been completed and are awaiting final signature by the Director. The funds will be used as equity by Indianpreneurs located on or adjacent to the Reservations and for members of the Little Shell Tribe. In order to access the funds the business owner must provide information similar to that required for a commercial loan, provide a one to one match in equity or a loan, and meet the approval of the equity review committees—located locally and at the Department of Commerce. This is a pilot program—if success warrants additional funding will be sought.

Indianpreneur Business Plan Contest: \$2,000

As an incentive for the <u>Indianpreneurship</u> classroom participants each program has been allocated \$500 for the winner of a business plan contest conducted by the organization sponsoring the course.